

Calendar Systems Teacher Guide

Calendar System	Origin Story	Current Year	Lunar or Solar	How many days/months per year	Is it used today?	Other
Gregorian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created by Pope Gregory in the 1500s, based on Roman Calendar, begins with birth of Jesus 	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar (based on the Earth revolving around the sun and a day as a rotation of the earth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 365 days per year Leap year has 366 days 12 months per year (vary in length) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted globally 	Uses BC to denote years before the birth of Jesus, and AD to denote years after. For example, today is 2011 AD.
Muslim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins with Mohammed's flight from Medina to Mecca in 622 AD on Gregorian Cal. Created by a follower of Mohammed in 638AD on Gregorian Cal. 	AH1432	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 354 days per year 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used in some Muslim countries as official calendar Used for religious purposes, although Gregorian is followed as well 	Uses AH to distinguish it's years from Gregorian years
Hebrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created by added up all of the years lived by the people listed in the Torah 	5772	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 354 days per year 12 or 13 months (similar to a leap year) 19 year cycles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used for religious purposes 	
Chinese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created in 500BC in China 	Metal Rabbit in 79 th cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar Lunar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 or 13 months in a lunar year 24 solar terms (months in a solar year) Goes through 60 year cycles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used throughout Asia to plan traditional holidays 	Each year in a 60 year cycle has both an element name (ex, wood) and an animal name (ex, fox)
Mayan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earliest record is from 500BC on Gregorian Calendar 	5124	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar lunar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 260 day cycle with 13 and 20 day cycle 360 day cycle with 18 months of 20 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used by some inhabitants of Central America 	Used calendar and astronomy to plan important events